

## ABSTRACT

Methods, systems, and computer program products for programmatically generating a ranked list of suitable target systems for a particular product-specific software installation, using a generic approach that is easily adaptable to a wide variety of software products. Product-specific configuration parameters and corresponding weights are used in performing the suitability assessment, and routines are identified which may be invoked on potential target systems to determine values of the configuration parameters. The weights are then applied to values representing each potential target system, and the summed total represents the suitability of that potential target. A ranked list may then be created and provided to the software installer for use in selecting the actual target(s) of the installation. In preferred embodiments, structured markup language syntax is used to specify the configuration parameters and weights, as well as the identification of the routines.